

Message Two

The Christian Life under the Government of God

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 1:6-8, 17; 4:13-19; 5:6

- I. As believers in Christ and children of God, we should live a Christian life under the government of God – John 3:15; 1:12-13; 1 Pet. 4:13-19; 5:6-8.**
- II. The Epistles of Peter reveal the Christ who enables us to take God's governmental dealings administered through sufferings – 1 Pet. 1:6-8; 2:3-4, 19, 21-25; 3:18, 22; 4:1, 15-16; 5:8-9.**
- III. We should be humbled under the mighty hand of God, which carries out the government of God – v. 6:**
 - A. In verse 6 *the mighty hand of God* refers to God's administrating hand seen especially in His judgment – 1:17; 4:17.
 - B. To be humbled under God's mighty hand is to be made humble by God; however, we must cooperate with God's operation and be willing to be made humble, lowly, under His mighty hand – 5:6.
- IV. As we live under the government of God, we will be made sorrowful by various trials and experience the proving of our faith – 1:6-7:**
 - A. The trials in verse 6 are sufferings that test the quality of our life as believers.
 - B. These trials are used by God to prove and try our faith to see whether we will follow Christ in suffering for doing good – 2:19-23; 3:14-18.
 - C. The emphasis in 1 Peter 1:7 is not on faith but on the proving of faith by trials that come through sufferings.
- V. Although we have not seen the Lord Jesus Christ, we love Him, and although we do not see Him at present, we believe, exalting with "joy that is unspeakable and full of glory" – v. 8:**
 - A. It is a wonder and a mystery that we, the believers, love One whom we have not seen.
 - B. We love Him whom we have not seen because of believing, because of the faith that has been infused into us through hearing the living word of God – Gal. 3:2.
 - C. This faith is under the proving, the trying, mentioned in 1 Pet. 1:7.
 - D. Joy full of glory is joy immersed in glory; it is joy that is filled with the expression of Christ – v. 8.
- VI. We should commit our souls to the faithful Creator – 4:19:**
 - A. God can preserve our soul, and His loving and faithful care accompanies His justice in His governmental administration.
 - B. While God judges us in His government, He cares for us faithfully in His love; as we are suffering His disciplinary judgment, we should commit our souls to the faithful care of our Creator – Matt. 10:28; 11:28-29.
- VII. In the death of Christ we have died to sins so that in the resurrection of Christ we might live to righteousness under God's government – 1 Pet. 2:24:**
 - A. God's government is established upon righteousness (Psa. 89:14a); as God's people living under His government, we must live a righteous life.

- B. The expression *live to righteousness* is related to the fulfilling of God's governmental requirements – 1 Pet. 2:24:
1. We were saved so that we might live rightly under the government of God, that is, in a way that matches the righteous requirements of His government.
 2. In Christ's death we have been separated from sins, and in His resurrection we have been enlivened so that in our Christian life we might live spontaneously to righteousness under the government of God – Rom. 6:8, 10-11, 18; Eph. 2:6; John 14:19; 2 Tim. 2:11.